

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a single crystal without using any seed crystal, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a raw material polycrystalline rod which is 3 mm or smaller in diameter; and

(b) heating and melting the raw material polycrystalline rod to form a molten zone and then cooling and solidifying the molten zone successively in the length direction, such that a fiber-shaped single crystal, which is 3 mm or smaller in diameter, grows in the direction normal to the densest surface.

2. (Original) The method of manufacturing a single crystal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the single crystal is an oxide single crystal.

3. (Original) The method of manufacturing a single crystal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein step (b) is performed using the Floating Zone Method.

4. (Original) The manufacturing method of a single crystal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein step (b) is performed using the Laser Heated Pedestal Growth method.

5 - 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a single crystal comprising without using a seed crystal:

(a) providing a  $(Y,R)_3Fe_5O_{12}$  polycrystalline rod which is 3 mm or smaller in diameter; and

(b) heating and melting the raw material polycrystalline rod to form a molten zone and then cooling and solidifying the molten zone